

TESTIMONY OF THE CONNECTICUT JUSTICE ALLIANCE

Education Committee

SB 1095: An Act Concerning School Resource Officers

IN FAVOR OF SB 1095



February 28, 2023

Dear chairs Senator McCrory, Representative Currey, and members of the Education Committee,

My Name Is Sage Grady I am a resident Of West Haven, Connecticut. I am a Justice Advisor with the Connecticut Justice Alliance and I am testifying In support of S.B. No.1095: An Act Concerning the Use of School Resource Officers In Connecticut Schools.

I can speak from personal experience that School Resource officers are intimidating and they are overly relied on in the school setting. I have personally been referred to School Resource Officers for simple, fixable behavior like chatting in class like normal highschool students usually do. But it was ALWAYS the black and brown students like myself that were always referred to the school resource officers and not the guidance counselor or the office like every other child who wasn't black and brown was. Now I am also a mother of a young girl who is going to have to attend a school with a resource officer soon. I often have to think about what it is going to be like for her in school if we don't remove school resource officers soon since she is a young black girl.

I feel saddened that these are things that I've personally been through, had to see peers go through, and maybe have to see my daughter encounter if we do not make change. Connecticut should invest in more Credible Messengers, and/ or more guidance counselors that can take their job seriously enough to really make a difference to our students. These SRO'S do not make students and staff feel any safer when they are in these school settings, that is opinionated and also has research to go with it from the Connecticut Voices For Children.

I strongly support S.B. 1095. I hope the Education Committee and Connecticut lawmakers will vote in favor of this bill because School Resource Officers do more harm to our black and brown students than good.

Thank you for your time everyone,
Sage Grady